

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012322

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012322

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: HU PFOR CSCE

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASST SECY HARTMAN

1. SUMMARY: AMB ESZTERGALYOS AT HIS REQUEST CALLED ON ASST SECY HARTMAN ON JAN 17. DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND A REVIEW OF RECENT BILATERAL DEVELOPMENTS AND AMB ESZTERGALYOS' GAME PLAN FOR CONTACT BUILDING WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS. ESZTERGALYOS BRIEFLY MENTIONED THE NEW HUNGARIAN CSCE PROPOSALS AND ONLY AS VEHICLE FOR IDENTIFYING QUESTIONS WHICH MIGHT CAPABLE OF RESOLUTION IN FURTHER EXCHANGE BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES.
END SUMMARY

2. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS - AMB ESZTERGALYOS NOTED MANY RECENT SIGNS OF MOVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE LAST CLAIM HAS BEEN RESOLVED AND DIRECT TRADE CONTACTS ARE DEVELOPING, FOLLOWING THE POSITIVE LEAD OF RICHARDSON AND SZEKER. MFN REMAINS A PROBLEM, BUT HUNGARY IS USING THE EXISTING POSSIBILITIES FOR MOVEMENT. ASST SECY HARTMAN WELCOMED THE DEBT SETTLEMENT AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE CUL-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 012322

TURAL/SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT IS ALMOST COMPLETED.

3. CSCE - MENTIONING THE RECENT GOH PROPOSALS ON CSCE, ESZTERGALYOS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE DEPT AND FMA COULD TAKE PLACE SOON TO IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF QUESTIONS WHICH BOTH SIDES WILL BE ABLE TO TACKLE. WE MUST AGREE ON THESE TOPICS AND THEN SOLVE THE QUESTIONS. HARTMAN

NOTED THAT WE ARE NOW STUDYING THE GOH PROPOSALS IN DETAIL. ESZTERGALYOS SEES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BROADER COOPERATION, BUT HUNGARY IS A SMALL COUNTRY WITH LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MUST THEREFORE CHOOSE PROJECTS ONLY OF REAL SUBSTANCE.

4. CONTACT BUILDING WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION - DURING THIS YEAR ESZTERGALYOS PLANS TO WORK AT PRESERVING CONTINUITY OF CONTACTS WITH OTHER GOVT AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, TREASURY AND TRANSPORTATION--PERHAPS EPA AS WELL. HOWEVER, HUNGARY REALIZES THAT IT IS ONLY A SMALL PLACE ON THE MAP AND THAT IT WILL BE SMALL IN THE THINKING OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THE LEADERS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL NEED TIME FOR URGENT DECISIONS; HE WILL NOT BOTHER THEM WITH "SMALL TALK" DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. THIS IS WHY HE INTENDS TO CONCENTRATE ON CONGRESS AT THIS TIME.

ESZTERGALYOS SAID HE WAS NOW CONSIDERING INVITING FOR A WORKING DINNER IN LATE FEBRUARY CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES, SUCH AS BINGHAM, THOMPSON, VANIK, FASCELL AND FENWICK. HE HOPED HARTMAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. HE NOTED THAT HUNGARY HAD HAD CERTAIN PROBLEMS WITH THE CSCE COMMISSION, BUT THAT HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN CONTACTING COMMISSION MEMBERS ON THE SAME BASIS AS ANY OTHER CONGRESSMEN.

HARTMAN CONCURRED THAT THIS PLAN WAS WELL THOUGHT OUT. IT WILL TAKE A WHILE FOR THE NEW PERSONNEL TO GET ORGANIZED, BUT MANY ARE NOT NEWCOMERS TO THE PROBLEMS AND ISSUES.
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PAGE 03 STATE 012322

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL FOCUS FIRST ON CERTAIN IMPORTANT BROAD ISSUES AND WORK OUT ITS REGIONAL POLICY. ONLY THEN WILL IT BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THE APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND THEIR SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. ESZTERGALYOS REPLIED THAT THERE ARE NO BURNING ISSUES IN US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS, "OTHER THAN OUR OWN REQUESTS." MEANWHILE, THE DAY-TO-DAY ISSUES ARE BEING RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY BECAUSE OF GOOD WORKING CONTACT IN BUDAPEST AND IN WASHINGTON.

5. AMB ESZTERGALYOS ALSO RENEWED MINISTER NAGY'S INVITATION FOR ASST SECY HARTMAN TO VISIT BUDAPEST. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT HE HAS THIS VERY MUCH IN MIND.

6. COMMENT: ESZTERGALYOS WAS RELAXED AND LOW KEY, A DECIDED CONTRAST TO THE IMPATIENCE RECENTLY REFLECTED BY AMB BARTHA. MFN WAS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING AND THE CROWN WAS NOT REFERRED TO DIRECTLY. KISSINGER

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